

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-25, 27-33, and 35 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that **claim 3** would be **allowable** if rewritten in independent form and **claims 27-33 and 35** are **allowed**.

While Applicant believes that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references, to speed prosecution, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 3. Claims 3, 26, and 34 correspondingly are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a continuation/divisional application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Allowable claim 20 is amended merely to provide proper antecedent basis, thereby overcoming this rejection. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-25, 27-33, and 35 should now be allowed.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more clearly defining the features of the present invention and for placing the application in condition for immediate allowance, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Allowable claims 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Allowable claim 20 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis, thereby overcoming this rejection. Allowable claims 20-25 should now be allowed.

With respect to the prior art rejections, claims 1, 6-8, 11-15, 26 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Parkkila (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,037).

Claims 2 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkkila in view of Naddel, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,213).

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkkila in view of Farris, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,253).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkkila in view of Farris, et al., and further in view of Naddel, et al.

Claims 16-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parkkila in view of Srinivasan, et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0022488 A1).

Applicant submits that these rejections are rendered moot by the amendments above.

Therefore, the Examiner is requested to withdraw these rejections.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4-25, 27-33, and 35, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

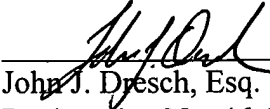
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/788,502  
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ALM.049

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

Respectfully Submitted,

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